



OLD BUCKENHAM HALL

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Ipswich, Suffolk, IP7 7PH
Website: www.obh.co.uk

MISUSE OF SUBSTANCES POLICY



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Smoking

- Smoking is covered as part of the PSHE programme that all pupils follow and specifically as part of the leavers programme.
- As part of the Science Curriculum pupils are taught about the health risks of smoking.
- Pupils are not only taught the dangers of smoking and passive smoking but are also taught how to resist peer pressure.

Alcohol

- The school adopts a policy, which prohibits the consumption of alcohol by those under the legal age, on the school premises.
- All pupils are taught about the potential dangers of alcohol abuse during their leavers programme.

Illegal Substances

- Except for those drugs that have been prescribed for medical reasons by a G.P, the use of drugs is prohibited on school premises.
- Pupils are taught about drugs, drugs and the law as well as how to resist peer pressure as part of their leavers programme.

Incident Procedures

The misuse of alcohol or any drug is regarded as an incident. Children, parents or staff should immediately inform the Headmaster if:

- Any evidence of alcohol, drug or substance abuse is found on school property
- A child is thought to possess such evidence
- They hear reports of a child being offered such evidence
- A child's behaviour/personality changes as a result of possible drug or substance use

Incidents - Situations that precipitate the need for action include:

1. Rumours or suspicions – about alcohol or drug use; including possession or dealing

- Staff should be cautious and collect evidence before challenging a child.
- Drug users are not easily identifiable through physical or behavioural changes and due caution should be observed.

2. Disclosure – when information is actually passed to a member of staff

- Unless the disclosure constitutes a child protection issue or there is a school directive to the contrary, the member of staff should assess how passing on this information will affect the welfare of the child. It is important to act in the best interests of the child concerned.

3. Discovery – of alcohol or drug use (including possession or dealing)

- The substance should be confiscated without confrontation.

4. Intoxication – on school premises or school trips

- Alcohol intoxication should be treated seriously, and the pupil must be kept under close observation.
- Consider other causes for the pupil's physical state. (e.g. Head injury, diabetes, epilepsy – all the above could be combined with alcohol or drug use)
- A history of the drinking or drug episode should be taken from, not only the pupil but also any other witnesses. Remember children rarely drink on their own; there may be more than one intoxicated person.
- The type and quantity of the alcohol, and the period over which it was consumed should be ascertained.
- A pupil who has had a head injury or can't describe the events of the incident should be taken to hospital.

5. Emergency – loss of consciousness due to drug use, intoxication or disclosure of overdose with no physical symptoms

- Standard emergency procedures should be followed
- An unconscious pupil should be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called.

Procedures for Staff

The Headmaster should be notified immediately if any evidence of alcohol, smoking, drug or substance misuse is uncovered.

Any staff finding such evidence should assess whether it is safe to retrieve it themselves or whether the Headmaster should be informed first. Pupils' safety must be the first priority

The Headmaster may keep such evidence for police to collect and may pass on information to the police about drug/substance related activities by parents or older children.

The Headmaster will investigate any report by staff about a child suspected of involvement with alcohol, drug or substance misuse. Parents may be notified – the school doctor may be informed.

This policy should be read in conjunction with Discipline/Behaviour, PSHE and Child Protection policies.

The Role of the Headmaster - In the event of a alcohol or drugs related incident, the Headmaster will need to assess the following:

- The legal requirements
- The involvement of outside agencies, including informing the police where appropriate
- The types of behaviour and the school's proposed course of action in response to them
- The geographical boundaries of the policy
- The involvement of parents
- Arrangements for safeguarding samples
- Health and welfare procedures
- Arrangements for recording incidents and informing others of incidents

Points to consider in each case

- The child's circumstances
- Any previous alcohol and/or drug related incidents relevant to the child
- The age of the child
- The alcohol/drugs involved
- Where the incident took place
- The nature of the offence – use, supplying or selling
- General attitude and response of the child
- What support can be offered

School Sanctions

The response needs to be based on a sensitive assessment of all the information available. This response could include any of the usual school disciplinary procedures, up to and including expulsion. Pupils and Parents should assume that the minimum sanction to be applied in the event of an alcohol, smoking or drug related offence shall be suspension from the school. A drug related offence is likely to lead to expulsion from the school.

The Headmaster will decide whether this information passes to the next school.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or when there are changes in legislation, by the Head of Pastoral Care.

EmmaEasdale
Pastoral Head, RGN

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